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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. NIMEIRI'S ACTIONS CAUSE "BEWILDERMENT" IN ADDIS

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY KHARTOUM, PROMINENT SUDANESE SAY
NIMEIRI'S STEPPED-UP CRITICISM OF ETHIOPIA AND HIS DECI-
SION TO RECALL HIS AMBASSADOR FROM ADDIS ABABA STEM FROM:

--REPORTS THAT QADHAFI HAS AGREED TO SUPPLY SOVIET
ARMS TO ANSAR REBELS OPERATING OUT OF ETHIOPIA; AND

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--THE BELIEF THAT HIS EFFORTS AT QUIET DIPLOMACY HAVE
NOT ONLY FAILED, BUT IN FACT ALLOWED EVEN CLOSER COL-
LUSION BETWEEN THE USSR, LIBYA, ETHIOPIA, AND THE
ANSAR REBELS.

MEANWHILE, EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA REPORTS THAT AN ETHIOPIAN

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN HAS EXPRESSED BEWILDERMENT OVER NIMEIRI'S CONCERNS, ADDING THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MUCH TO GAIN BY CONTINUING THEIR "CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS." (SECRET) KHARTOUM 40 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) ADDIS ABABA 60, 1/5.)

2. SOVIET AGRICULTURE: A GOOD YEAR

IN A JANUARY 5 STATEMENT TO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, SOVIET AGRICULTURAL MINISTER MESYATS INDICATED THAT 1976 HAS BEEN A GENERALLY GOOD CROP YEAR. MESYATS PLACED GRAIN PRODUCTION AT A RECORD 223.8 MILLION TONS, BUT PROMISED THE USSR WOULD FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER EXISTING IMPORT AGREEMENTS EVEN THOUGH IT HAS ENOUGH GRAIN FOR DOMESTIC NEEDS. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY MOSCOW, IT ALSO APPEARS THAT MEAT PRODUCTION WAS LESS AFFECTED BY LAST YEAR'S CROP FAILURE THAN EXPECTED, DROPPING ONLY SEVEN OR EIGHT PERCENT BELOW 1975. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MOSCOW 150, 1/5.)

3. CAMEROON: AHIDJO ASSESSES SOVIET THREAT

DURING A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR SPIRO, CAMEROONIAN PRESIDENT AHIDJO DISCUSSED THE SOVIET THREAT TO CENTRAL AFRICA. AHIDJO CONCLUDED THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE MORE SOVIET AND CUBAN FORCES IN THE CONGO, THE GREATEST DANGER LAY IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA. IN HIS VIEW, PRESIDENT MACIAS' ERRATIC LEADERSHIP, COUPLED WITH A LACK OF MANAGERS AND SKILLED CADRE, HAS CREATED A SITUATION WHICH THE SOVIETS COULD EASILY EXPLOIT. (CONFIDENTIAL) YAOUNDE 23, 1/3.)

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4. UAE: COMPROMISE CABINET NAMED

AFTER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF CONSULTATION, PRESIDENT ZAYID HAS NAMED A NEW CABINET, THE UAE'S THIRD SINCE FEDERATION. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY ABU DHABI, THE NEW CABINET:

--IS WEIGHTED HEAVILY TOWARD ABU DHABI AND DUBAI, BUT INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF THE SEVEN EMIRATES;

--REPRESENTS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN UAE LEADERS WHO WANTED A MORE NATIONALISTIC AND PROFESSIONAL GROUP AND THOSE WHO DESIRED TRADITIONAL FAMILY REPRESENTATION; AND

--COUNTS AMONG ITS NEW MEMBERS UAE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, SAID GHUBBASH, AS MINISTER OF PLANNING. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ABU DHABI 43, 1/5.)

5. CYPRUS: PROGRESS SEEN UNLIKELY THIS YEAR

IN A RECENT REVIEW OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE PEREZ DE CUELLAR TOLD AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD THAT:

--DESPITE FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES' BRAVADO, THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE OUTMANEUVERED AT THE UN;

--WALDHEIM IS CONSIDERING VISITING THE THREE CAPITALS IN APRIL IF PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS INDICATE A POSSIBILITY FOR INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS; BUT

--SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS SEEMS UNLIKELY THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF TURKISH ELECTIONS AND MAKARIOS' APPARENT DISINTEREST. (CONFIDENTIAL) NICOSIA 0029, 1/5.)

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6. SPANISH STUDY FAVORS NATO MEMBERSHIP

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY MADRID, A SPANISH WAR COLLEGE STUDY OF NATO HAS CONCLUDED IN FAVOR OF SPAIN JOINING THE ALLIANCE. COMMENTING ON THE STUDY, SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE NOTED THAT THE DECISION ON WHETHER TO JOIN WILL BE MADE ON POLITICAL GROUNDS, WITH THE STATUS OF GIBRALTAR A MAJOR, BUT NOT INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 58, 1/4.)

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